

15 Sec. 8. Section 48-625, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
16 Nebraska, is amended to read:

17 48-625. (1) ~~Each~~ For benefit years beginning on or  
18 before September 30, 2006, each eligible individual who is  
19 unemployed in any week shall be paid with respect to such week a  
20 benefit in an amount equal to his or her full weekly benefit amount  
21 if he or she has wages payable to him or her with respect to such  
22 week equal to one-half of such benefit amount or less. In the  
23 event he or she has wages payable to him or her with respect to  
24 such week greater than one-half of such benefit amount but less  
25 than his or her full weekly benefit amount, he or she shall be paid  
26 an amount equal to one-half of such benefit amount. For any  
27 benefit beginning on or after October 1, 2006, each individual who  
1 is unemployed in any week shall be paid with respect to such week a  
2 benefit in an amount equal to his or her full weekly benefit amount  
3 if he or she has wages payable to him or her with respect to such  
4 week equal to one-fourth of such benefit amount or less. In the  
5 event he or she has wages payable to him or her with respect to  
6 such week greater than one-fourth of such benefit amount, he or she  
7 shall be paid with respect to that week an amount equal to the  
8 individual's weekly benefit amount less that part of wages payable  
9 to the individual with respect to that week in excess of one-fourth  
10 of the individual's weekly benefit amount. In the event there is  
11 any deduction from such individual's weekly benefit amount because  
12 of earned wages in excess of an amount equal to one-half of such  
13 benefit amount pursuant to this subsection or as a result of the  
14 application of subdivision (5) of section 48-628, the resulting  
15 benefit payment, if not an exact dollar amount, shall be computed  
16 to the next lower dollar amount.

17 Any amount of unemployment compensation payable to any  
18 individual for any week, if not an even dollar amount, shall be  
19 rounded to the next lower full dollar amount.  
20 No deduction shall be made for any supplemental payments  
21 received by a claimant under the provisions of subsection (b) of  
22 section 408 of Title IV of the Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act  
23 of 1952.

24 The percentage of benefits and the percentage of extended  
25 benefits which are federally funded may be adjusted in accordance  
26 with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985,  
27 Public Law 99-177.

1 (2) Vacation leave pay including that received in a lump  
2 sum or upon separation from employment shall be prorated in an  
3 amount reasonably attributable to each week claimed and considered  
4 payable with respect to such week.

5 Sec. 9. Section 48-627, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
6 Nebraska, is amended to read:

7 48-627. An unemployed individual shall be eligible to  
8 receive benefits with respect to any week, only if the Commissioner  
9 of Labor finds:

10 (1) He or she has registered for work at, and thereafter  
11 continued to report at, an employment office in accordance with  
12 such rules and regulations as the commissioner may prescribe,  
13 except that the commissioner may, by rule and regulation, waive or  
14 alter either or both of the requirements of this subdivision as to  
15 individuals attached to regular jobs and as to such other types of  
16 cases or situations, with respect to which he or she finds that  
17 compliance with such requirements, would be oppressive, or would be  
18 inconsistent with the purposes of the Employment Security Law,  
19 except that no such rule or regulation shall conflict with section  
20 48-623;

21 (2) He or she has made a claim for benefits, in

22 accordance with section 48-629;  
23 (3) He or she is able to work and is available for work.  
24 No individual, who is otherwise eligible, shall be deemed  
25 ineligible, or unavailable for work, because he or she is on  
26 vacation without pay during such week, if such vacation is not the  
27 result of his or her own action as distinguished from any  
1 collective action by a collective-bargaining agent or other action  
2 beyond his or her individual control, and regardless of whether he  
3 or she has not been notified of the vacation at the time of his or  
4 her hiring. Receipt of a non-service-connected total disability  
5 pension by a veteran at the age of sixty-five or more shall not of  
6 itself bar the veteran from benefits as not able to work. An  
7 otherwise eligible individual while engaged in a training course  
8 approved for him or her by the commissioner shall be considered  
9 available for work for the purposes of this section;  
10 (4) He or she has been unemployed for a waiting period of  
11 one week. No week shall be counted as a week of unemployment for  
12 the purpose of this subdivision (a) unless it occurs within the  
13 benefit year, which includes the week with respect to which he or  
14 she claims payment of benefits, (b) if benefits have been paid with  
15 respect thereto, or (c) unless the individual was eligible for  
16 benefits with respect thereto, as provided in sections 48-627 and  
17 48-628, except for the requirements of this subdivision and of  
18 subdivision (6) of section 48-628;  
19 (5) For any benefit year beginning on or before ~~December~~  
20 ~~31, 1998~~, he or she has, within his or her base period, been paid a  
21 ~~total sum of wages for employment by employers equal to not less~~  
22 ~~than one thousand two hundred dollars, of which sum at least four~~  
23 ~~hundred dollars has been paid in each of two quarters in his or her~~  
24 ~~base period, and for any benefit year beginning on or after January~~  
25 ~~1, 1999~~ December 31, 2005, he or she has, within his or her base  
26 period, been paid a total sum of wages for employment by employers  
27 equal to not less than one thousand six hundred dollars, of which  
1 sum at least eight hundred dollars has been paid in each of two  
2 quarters in his or her base period, and for any benefit year  
3 beginning on or after January 1, 2006, he or she has, within his or  
4 her base period, been paid a total sum of wages for employment by  
5 employers equal to not less than two thousand five hundred dollars,  
6 of which sum at least eight hundred dollars has been paid in each  
7 of two quarters in his or her base period, and subsequent to filing  
8 the claim which establishes the previous benefit year, the  
9 individual has earned wages in insured work ~~in~~ of at least ~~four~~  
10 ~~weeks~~ six times his or her weekly benefit amount for the previous  
11 benefit year. Commencing January 1, 2007, and each January 1  
12 thereafter, the amount which an individual is required to earn  
13 within his or her base period shall be adjusted annually. The  
14 adjusted amount shall be equal to the then current amount adjusted  
15 by the cumulative percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for  
16 All Urban Consumers published by the Federal Bureau of Labor  
17 Statistics for the one-year period ending on the previous September  
18 30. For the purposes of this subdivision, (a) wages shall be  
19 counted as wages for insured work for benefit purposes with respect  
20 to any benefit year only if such benefit year begins subsequent to  
21 the date on which the employer, by whom such wages were paid, has  
22 satisfied the conditions of section 48-603 or subsection (3) of  
23 section 48-661, with respect to becoming an employer, and (b) with  
24 respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after January 1,  
25 1978, wages for insured work for benefit purposes with respect to  
26 any benefit year shall include wages paid for services as defined  
27 by subdivision (4)(a), (b), (c), or (d) of section 48-604 to the  
1 extent that such services were not services in employment under

2 subdivision (4)(a) of section 48-604 or section 48-661 immediately  
3 prior to September 2, 1977, even though the employer by whom such  
4 wages were paid had not satisfied the conditions of subdivision  
5 (8), (9), (10), or (11) of section 48-603 with respect to becoming  
6 an employer at the time such wages were paid except to the extent  
7 that assistance under Title II of the federal Emergency Jobs and  
8 Unemployment Assistance Act of 1974 was paid on the basis of such  
9 services; and  
10 (6) He or she is participating in reemployment services  
11 at no cost to such individual as directed by the commissioner, such  
12 as job search assistance services, if the individual has been  
13 determined to be likely to exhaust regular benefits and to need  
14 reemployment services pursuant to a profiling system established by  
15 rule and regulation of the commissioner which is in compliance with  
16 section 303(j)(1) of the federal Social Security Act, unless the  
17 commissioner determines that: (a) The individual has completed  
18 such services; or (b) there is justifiable cause for the claimant's  
19 failure to participate in such services.